





## OAU, U.N. start peace efforts in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) wants to send a special delegation to the Somali capital Mogadishu to try to persuade warring factions there to end six weeks of fierce clan battles, it said Monday.

"The objective of the mission is to explore possibilities of a ceasefire in Mogadishu so as to pave the way for a dialogue and peaceful resolution to the tragic conflict in Somalia," said an OAU statement released in Nairobi.

An ethnic power struggle between rival warlords Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammed has killed and wounded an estimated 20,000 people since Nov. 17, according to the United Nations.

Earlier this month, OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim broke the African body's 11-month silence on the carnage in Somalia, offering to mediate in peace talks and adding that a peace-keeping force could be sent in if invited.

The OAU statement said that "one of the parties" had said it would receive the delegation and that it was still waiting to hear from the other one.

OAU officials refused to give further details but diplomatic sources said General Aided had rejected the OAU proposal.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also said last week he was sending help to Mogadishu.

Special U.N. emissary James Jonah was scheduled to fly into the city of Friday to meet Gen. Aided and Mr. Ali Mahdi to discuss the revival of desperately-needed relief operations that have been disrupted by fighting.

A ceasefire between the rival clan fighters was set to begin later on Monday. But several truces have already been broken.

Aid workers in contact by satellite telephone with the Indian Ocean port city said house-to-house gun battles were still raging but the heavy mortar bombardments had died down.

An estimated 100,000 civilians have fled the city to escape fighting and look for food in surrounding rural areas.

About 8,000 tonnes of relief food have been stranded for two months in the port's docks where a faction in control of the area has refused to release it, an aid worker said.

"Food is a kind of power," the

aid worker added. "They are literally fighting over it."

The Horn of Africa nation has been plunged into anarchy since guerrillas ousted dictator Mohammed Siad Barre last January and then turned to fighting each other.

U.N. proposals include the creation of neutral zones in the city such as hospitals, the port and airport as well as "peace corridors" that would allow food to cross battle lines.

Two months ago the U.N. said about 4.5 million people out of a total population of around six million faced famine. Deaths would increase if security could not be restored to allow emergency food distribution.

"If the food situation is not solved in Mogadishu then the fighting will not stop," an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross told Reuters.

### Clash in north

Fighting broke out Monday in a Red Sea port in secessionist northern Somalia, and a United Nations official said the clash appeared to be between two army units.

"We understand a unit went to the barracks and the soldiers there refused to leave," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We don't know whether it was supposed to be a routine rotation or the units supported different political factions."

The official had no information on casualties in the fighting in the port of Berbera and said all relief workers had been told to stay indoors.

Northern Somalia, which is controlled by the Somali National Movement, seceded from southern Somalia in May and calls itself the Somaliland republic. The situation has generally been peaceful.

The Somali National Movement, which draws most of its support from the northern Isaaq clan, took up arms in 1983 and is the oldest of the insurgent groups that fought to oust Mr. Siad Barre.

The Somaliland republic's boundaries are those of the former British Somaliland — a protectorate that joined with the Italian Somaliland in 1960 to form the country Somalia.

The secessionist government has been seeking international recognition,

## Border talks with Oman spark row in Yemen

ADEN, Yemen (R) — A row has broken out in Yemen over suggestions that the government is about to sign away 15,000 square kilometres of territory to neighbouring Oman before a new constitution takes full effect.

Political parties and organisations in the southeastern border province of Al Mahra said in a joint statement last week a draft border agreement included the territorial concession.

"We hold the leadership responsible for the results if the opinion of the province's people is not considered," it added.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh said earlier this month the two countries would sign a formal border demarcation agreement before the end of this year.

But the government denies any deal is ready for signing.

A Foreign Ministry official told Reuters Monday that the negotiations with Oman had not ended. "Yemeni-Omani talks on demarcating the borders will resume early next year," he added.

One of the main opposition parties, the Yemeni Unionist Party, has attacked the alleged border agreement on the grounds that the government is only transitional.

It is operating under a constitution drawn up when North and South Yemen united in a single state in May 1990. The constitution does not take full effect until after general elections in November 1992.

The territory in question is in what used to be South Yemen, while the unified state is dominated by the more populous North.

The Yemeni Unionist Party said the present government did not have the constitutional right to decide on matters of national sovereignty.

"The present authority ... bears full responsibility for the consequences (such as) the squandering of rights or national sovereignty," it said in a statement.

The party said the government should publish details of the border talks with Oman so that people would be able to say what they thought of any agreement.

South Yemen, which was the Arab World's only Marxist state, backed separatist guerrillas against the border in southern Oman during the 1960s and 1970s.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dealers offer Israel sophisticated weapons

TEL AVIV (AP) — Arms dealers from the former Soviet Union are offering Israel weapons traditionally sold to Arab countries, including advanced warplanes, a newspaper reported Monday. The Haaretz daily wrote that the "surprising offers" include weapons Israel once lacked any information about, those considered top secret and supplied only to elite Red Army units. Among the items on the list are advanced MiG-29 fighter planes supplied to Syria and an advanced ground-to-air radar missile system, the newspaper said. The defence ministry declined comment on the report. Israel could use some weapons for intelligence purposes but has little operational need for them since it is well-equipped with advanced U.S.-made armaments, the Haaretz daily wrote. The uncertainty surrounding the military industries in the former Soviet Union, due to the economic and political upheaval in the newly independent republics is another deterrent for purchasing these weapons, the paper said. The dealers are offering unusually low prices compared to similar Western-made weapons systems, but also insist on being paid in cash, Haaretz said. "It is possible theoretically to purchase Soviet arms systems for intelligence reasons only, in order to study them and be able to develop counter-defence systems," reporter Reuven Pedhatz, the newspaper's military correspondent, wrote.

### Iran plans more Afghan relief flights

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, which angered Kabul last month by air-dropping food in central Afghanistan, said on Monday it planned further relief operations for hungry Afghans. Seifollah Vahid-Dastjerdi, head of Iran's Red Crescent society, said Tehran would send planes as soon as Islamabad agreed to its request for permission to airlift supplies to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Vahid Dastjerdi, quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA, said Iran planned to send relief supplies to Afghanistan but did not elaborate. Last month an Iranian transport plane dropped food over the Afghan city of Damiyan in an attempt to prevent an exodus of tribesmen from the central Hazarajat region where there are severe shortages. A week later the Afghan foreign ministry issued a statement warning that no unauthorised aircraft would be allowed to enter Afghanistan's airspace. It said no country had a right to carry out relief operations in Afghanistan without Kabul's permission. About five million refugees from the civil war in Afghanistan live in Iran and Pakistan.

### Palestinians recognise former Soviet republics

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sunday officially recognised the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union as independent states. The PLO's decision-making Executive Committee called for the new states to take up an active role in the Middle East peace process, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa. The Wafa communique expressed hope the new states can "overcome their difficulties and be able to contribute to international stability." The Soviet Union was the official co-sponsor, with the United States, of historic Middle East peace talks that opened in Madrid in October and continued last month in Washington.

### Two Americans held in Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Two Americans who disappeared on the Kuwaiti frontier more than three weeks ago are being held in Iraq, the U.S. embassy said Monday. An embassy spokesman refused to give the names, occupations or any other details of the men who vanished on Dec. 4. The confirmation that they were held in Iraq was the first public comment on their fate since they vanished on Dec. 4. Iraq has made no mention of their detention. American diplomats were first alerted to the disappearance when one of the men's friends telephoned the embassy to say the two had not returned from a trip to the border. An embassy spokesman said on Dec. 8 that the men were on a business trip.

## Hashish, heroin seized in Lebanon drug haul

BEIRUT (AP) — Police on Sunday seized 700 kilograms of hashish and 20 kilograms of heroin in a major haul that signalled a new effort to throttle one of the world's main sources of narcotics.

Police chief Mohammad Kobrosli estimated the street value of the drugs seized at \$3.5 million. He gave no details of the operation.

But a police spokesman, who could not be named in line with standing regulations, said an army soldier, Elie Najjar, was arrested in the operation during which there was a brief exchange of fire.

"This was the biggest amount of heroin ever seized in Lebanon," said the spokesman.

He said police raided Mr. Najjar's hideout in a Christian neighbourhood of Beirut as he was readying the narcotics for shipment to the United States and the Netherlands.

He had most of the drugs concealed in six barrels, said the policeman.

Mr. Najjar tried to evade arrest by engaging the policemen in a shootout, but they overwhelmed

him. The spokesman reported no casualties.

He said Mr. Najjar had been under police surveillance for some time.

On Saturday, customs officers at Beirut airport arrested two men trying to smuggle 865 grams of heroin to Canada and Australia.

Lebanon is one of the world's primary sources of hashish. It produces 700-800 tonnes of the drug a year. During the civil war years, several heroin processing plants were established in the country.

Syrian troops, in Lebanon to help the government restore law and order after 16 years of war, have been destroying hashish plantations in east Lebanon.

A few months ago, Syrian tanks, trucks, bulldozers and armoured personnel carriers were seen driving through the fields of the Bekaa Valley, trashing hundreds of acres of hashish plantations.

Also, Syrian authorities have reported seizing hundreds of kilograms of hashish, smuggled from Lebanon into Syria for export to the Gulf.

## Kuwaiti opposition aims for democracy in 1992

KUWAIT (R) — Opposition leaders said Monday 1992 would be the year of political confrontation with the government over democracy in Kuwait.

The first free elections for the National Assembly in seven years are due next October. They were promised by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, after the U.S.-led allies liberated Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February.

"The year 1992 is the year of confrontation for democracy," Ahmad Al Dayeen, a leader of the liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), told Reuters. "The elections are a chance for an offensive for democracy."

The main concern in Kuwait now is the restoration of democracy and the release of the freedoms of press and speech," said KDF chief Abdullah Al Nibari.

Although a monarchy controlled by the Sabah family, Kuwait has had a lively parliament for most of the time since independence in 1961.

"The fight next year is a fight for the protection of the constitution ... and its reimplementation which would lead to the reactivation of the legislative bodies," Mr. Nibari said.

The ruling family wanted to preserve its privileges and remain above the law, but unconstitutional and unacceptable to Kuwaitis, he said.

The opposition wanted social, educational and administrative reforms and implementation of the constitution as well as lifting of censorship.

## Iran eases, slightly, its standoff with Swiss embassy

GENEVA (AP) — Iran stopped searching Swiss diplomats entering their embassy in Tehran on Monday, but otherwise continued restrictions on the staff that prevented a diplomat from leaving Sunday on vacation, Bern officials said.

Meanwhile, Zeyar Sarhadi, the Iranian whose arrest in Bern last Monday set off the latest tensions between Switzerland and Iran, formally filed a request that he be released from custody.

Switzerland closed the embassy on Sunday indefinitely because of the Iranian restrictions, which in the process shut off the United States' interest section in Tehran. The Swiss have represented U.S. concerns in Tehran since the 1979 occupation of the American embassy there.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the United States still has other channels of communication with Iran. Algeria also acts as a go-between; it administers the Iranian interest section in Washington.

Switzerland's foreign interest section, which also handles South African affairs, makes up a large part of the Tehran embassy, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Marco Cameroni.

The foreign section consists of three Swiss and seven local employees, he said. The embassy has eight diplomats altogether.

Iran claims Mr. Sarhadi is an employee of the Bern embassy and is thus immune from arrest, but the Swiss say he entered Switzerland on a tourist visa last September and has never been registered with them as a diplomat or embassy employee. They acknowledge that he has been

staying at the embassy. An immediate decision by the federal court on Mr. Sarhadi's request was unlikely. Swiss authorities have a chance to respond, and France has until Jan. 10 to file a request for the extradition of the Iranian, whom the French have sought in connection with the slaying of an exiled Iranian leader.

In Tehran Swiss Charge d'Affaires Walter Haffner said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press' Swiss service that Swiss employees of the embassy were allowed on Monday to enter the embassy without being searched or questioned by the Iranian guards outside.

Iranian employees of the embassy, however, still are searched and put through long interrogations, as they have been since last week, said Mr. Haffner.

Spirits of the embassy staff remained good, however, Mr. Haffner said. The exception was Christa Felder, the diplomat who was prevented from leaving on Sunday, Mr. Haffner said. She was to begin her honeymoon, he added.

The Iranians confiscated her diplomatic passport, but the embassy was allowed to pick it up from the airport several hours later.

The Swiss arrested Mr. Sarhadi at the request of France, who issued an international warrant accusing him of renting apartments and providing other assistance for the killers of an exiled Iranian leader.

Shahpour Bakhtiari, the late Shah's final prime minister, was killed at his home near Paris last Aug. 6.

### Iran's defence minister ends Qatar visit

MANAMA, Bahrain, (R) — Iran's Defence Minister Akbar Torkan left Doha Monday following military and economic talks with Qatari officials, the Qatari News Agency reported. Mr. Torkan, on his first visit to Qatar, had talks with Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and inspected air and naval bases and Qatari plants and factories.

## Beirut bomb

(Continued from page 1)

blow to a renewed government security in Lebanon.

It was the bloodiest Lebanon since 15 years war ended in October with the ousting of the Michel Aoun by Syrian troops.

Explosives packed and wrecked the administration at the American University Beirut on Nov. 8, killing two. There was no claim of responsibility for that Israeli agents were reported to have been behind it.

Interior Minister Samir told reporters at the scene Monday's blast that investigations would begin immediately to track down the culprit.

"We don't know whether he found him, but I promise he hanged here at the scene of the crime," he said.

The bomb carved a crater metres deep on Mamouna one block from the Fakhri barracks where pro-Israeli demonstrators once held Western hostages.

The Syrian army, wrested the barracks from Hizbollah in 1987, has abandoned the barracks.

"Is this a new year where the government what happened to the peace that has finally broken in Lebanon?" sobbed Mr. Chehab, 47, whose son was injured in the blast.

"One becomes disgusted in such a place," he said. "Animals elsewhere are much better."

Hospitals blared radio for blood donations as workers sifted through the wreckage.

Among the survivors three year-old girl, daughter of a doctor, was injured. She was covered with blood. She was dug out of the rubble in a state of shock.

## Settlers open fire

(Continued from page 1)

ties, members of Mr. Shamir's coalition, have threatened against the budget when it before parliament if refused extra funds.

Their demands took on weight following the resignation of Agriculture Minister Eitan, which weakened Shamir's majority from 66 to the 120-member Knesset (parliament).

The Dec. 31, deadline for the budget is also being up by demands from right parties. If Mr. Shamir fails a majority vote for the budget, it will probably have to be retable.

The daily Haaretz reported that Finance Minister Moshe Arens agreed to pay an additional \$325 million in the occupied territories.

The increase means two of government-sponsored housing would be built in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A finance ministry spokesman confirmed the Tel Aviv Molelet parties had refused extra funding for settlements declined to comment on whether promised.

Dedi Zucker, lawmaker of the Citizens' Rights Movement, which opposes the settlements, said the agreement was still worked out.

He said the parties had added 5,000 additional units in the occupied territories in the occupied territories.

The finance ministry spoken in the past of 3,000-4,000 in 1992.

Mr. Zucker said the agreement will "severely endanger chances of getting the guarantees from the U.S. and will prove to be what the Shamir government really means when it says

## Deadline brings end to military involvement in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 12-year conflict in Afghanistan enters a new phase Wednesday with the formal end of all U.S. and Soviet military involvement after years of each side supporting rival factions.

The deadline was set in September by the Bush administration and leaders of the former Soviet Union. U.S. officials are confident that both sides will adhere to the agreement.

Nonetheless, there is no early end to the fighting in sight as the leftist government in Kabul and the anti-communist rebel movement have yet to open peace talks despite intensive United Nations mediation efforts.

An estimated 1.5 million have been killed in the war, with more than three million maimed or wounded and five million displaced to exile in Pakistan and Iran. One in every three refugees worldwide is an Afghan.

U.S. officials, asking not to be identified, said the last of the U.S. deliveries to the rebels arrived in Pakistan sometime in October. Under the agreement

with the Soviets, the military aid "pipeline" between Pakistan and Afghanistan is to be cut off by Jan. 1. Pakistan has been the rebel headquarters and transit point for U.S. aid deliveries for years.

As for the Russian side, one official said, "there has been a significant fall off in their assistance" in the weeks preceding the deadline.

Leaders of the rebel movement have been told that Russian fuel deliveries to the leftist government in Kabul also will be suspended even though that step is not required under the September agreement.

The fate of Afghanistan was once a major security concern to Moscow but that has all changed now since the Soviet Union has been replaced by the commonwealth of independent states.

The main Russian concern in Afghanistan nowadays is to obtain an accounting for the 300 estimated soldiers missing.

Twelve years ago last Friday then-President Leonid Brezhnev dispatched what was to become a force of more than 100,000 troops

to put down an uprising against the communist regime in Kabul that was installed in April 1978. The last of the Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan in February 1989.

The Afghan issue was one of many during the 1980s that brought the United States and the Soviet Union into an increasingly bitter rivalry. President Jimmy Carter authorised a covert operation to aid the Afghan rebels.

Nations such as Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are believed to be sending weaponry into Afghanistan, ignoring U.S. appeals for a cutoff.

Aggravating the situation has been an increasing tendency among rival factions of the rebel movement to fight one another in a bid for military supremacy.

The main reason peace talks have not begun is that the rebels have refused talks with representatives of Afghan President Najibullah. As U.S. officials see it, the peace process can make headway only when all outside military assistance to the various factions ceases.

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Mr. Najjar tried to evade arrest by engaging the policemen in a shootout, but they overwhelmed

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Special programme for New Year  
19:30 News in French  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:30 News in Arabic  
21:30 Evening studio  
22:30 News in English

### PRAYER TIMES

06:54 Fajr  
06:16 Sunrise (Sunrise) Doha  
11:26 Dhuhr  
14:12 Asr  
16:36 Maghreb  
17:58 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terzavassa Church Tel. 622666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991

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Terzavassa Church Tel. 622666

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 71 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Khalid Ma'addi 743500  
Dr. Khalil Abdo 795392  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256  
Dr. Ghaleb Zewaid 750123  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Fardous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy 637055  
Naimah pharmacy 626762  
Al Salim pharmacy 636720  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamees pharmacy 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Radeya Al Saad 27825

Dr. Radeya Al Saad 27825

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## Criticism of government grows prior to budget approval

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's approval of the 1992 fiscal budget Monday followed two days of intense debate by deputies.

House members, in addition to suggesting a greater piece of the pie for their constituencies, criticised the government for its performance in implementing past budgets. Criticism ranged from not following through on proposed projects to lack of proper supervision of some government departments.

Deputy Attia Al Shawan emphasised in his address the need for maintaining the strongest possible cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in the coming year.

He criticised the budget for giving more allocations and attention to the infrastructure instead of focusing on an expansion of production. He said that more attention should have been given from the small and medium-sized projects in industry and agriculture to absorb more unemployed people.

Deputy Majed Khalifa and Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber asked that the government give more attention to medical care and schools. While deputies Nayef Al Hadid and Hameed Mansour called for the government to shift school fees to the end of the school year.

They called on the government to build hospitals at the local level and to carry out the electrification of the remaining parts of the rural areas of Jordan.

Deputy Ahmad Al Abbadi called on the government to live up to its promises of dealing with the problems of poverty, unemployment and soaring prices as well as old debts.

He noted that the government has received JD 14 million in aid from the United States, which is more than the amount of the income generating projects to reduce unemployment and poverty.

He demanded that the government provide the House with details about areas where the aid was spent.

Deputy Yusef Al Azm spoke on behalf of all deputies from the Irbid Governorate, demanding that the government direct attention to water, road and other aid.



Lower House of Parliament members discussed the proposed 1992 budget Monday. Some members, in addition to calling for specific



projects, questioned the government's fiscal responsibility (photo by Yusef Al 'Aban)

municipal services in the Maan and Aqaba regions. He also called on the government to develop the health centre at Wadi Mousa into a hospital and for the National Aid Fund to be made to cover a wider sector of the population.

Deputy Fuad Al-Khalafat urged the government to place the qualified people in government positions, especially those with decision-making powers. The next stage, he said, requires careful planning and feasible programmes with the government maintaining strict control and supervision.

The deputy criticised financial practices by some departments like the ministries of foreign affairs and finance as well as the radio and television corporation and the Civil Aviation Authority. He demanded that the Audit Bureau impose stricter control on their financial operations.

Deputy Mahmoud Al Hweini drew attention to the school dropouts in the Jordan Valley region and demanded that the education process in the rural regions be developed. He called for farmers' debts to be rescheduled to improve their living conditions.

Deputy Abdul Rahim Ekour referred to the country's foreign debts and criticised the government for planning to get more loans in order to pay part of the external debts and services on them.

Mr. Ekour cast doubt about the effectiveness of the economic restructuring programme agreed

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that the IMF had imposed this programme not for the sake of reforming the national economy, noting that many Third World countries following the advice of the IMF had fallen deeper in debt and are now facing deteriorating economic conditions.

Referring to unemployment, he said that it was regrettable to see a lack of equal opportunities for all people seeking jobs in the country. Appointment in government offices hinges on the whims and desires of the influential decision-makers who tend to favour their relatives and friends, he said.

Deputy Ahmad Dafawin urged the government to give more attention to agriculture. Many state-owned lands in the Karak region remain undeveloped while no move is being made to drill artesian wells in those regions to irrigate the land, he said.

The deputy urged the government to give attention to the Wadi Ben Hamad, Karak and Lejjoun regions in southern Jordan. Mr. Kafawin also made demands for improvements of the education, health and municipal services in the south.

Deputies from the Zarqa area presented a set of demands to the government calling for the establishment of sports facilities and demanding that municipalities and village councils be offered greater assistance.

They also demanded that a new garbage dump be found away

from the present one near Ruseifa to prevent pollution of the atmosphere and called on the government to impose stricter control over the various factories within the Zarqa region.

The deputies noted that poverty and unemployment were widespread in the Zarqa region and called on the government to increase social development services to needy families. These deputies named 10 villages and rural settlements which still lack electricity and demanded that health services be upgraded in their region.

Deputy Nader Dhuheirat called for solving problems facing areas in the Jordan Valley and urged it to convert several rural councils to municipal councils. He also called for setting up dams in areas exposed to floods in winter and for increasing the number of water pumps installed on the Wadi Al Arab Dam.

Mr. Dhuheirat also asked the government to increase the quota of the regions of Al Koura and the northern Jordan Valley in university seats and to augment the number of scholarships for the two regions.

Deputy Ahmad Al Kafahi asked the government to tackle the problems of unemployment, poverty, high prices and indebtedness and urged it to stabilise the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate and decrease foreign imports.

Dr. Kafahi, a Muslim Brotherhood member from Irbid, called

for carrying out the King Abdullah Hospital Project, expanding health centres, completing the agricultural roads network, developing the telephone services in addition to supporting municipal and rural councils in Irbid Governorate.

Deputy Nayef Al Hadid called for solving the basic problems plaguing Jordanian society such as unemployment and poverty, and for achieving balance between the society's various sectors and supporting the armed forces.

He stressed the importance of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities and affirmed the need to support the executive authority to enable it to carry out plans and projects mentioned in its 1992 general budget and to help it overcome economic challenges and external pressures.

He criticised the increasing number of universities and institutes, whether public or private, and said these educational institutions were not established randomly. He said that such universities and institutes contributed only to increasing the number of the unemployed in Jordan.

Deputy Ibrahim Ghababshah called for listing the country's debts in an appendix added to the general budget draft law to facilitate the process of following it up. He requested the establishment of earth dams in the southern parts of Jordan and said that such dams are of strategic importance to Jordan.

## UNRWA employees hold sit-in, demand pay increase

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Committees representing some 6,000 employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan Monday staged a one-hour sit-in at the agency's headquarters in Amman and headed to the agency director a cable which they demanded be sent to UNRWA Commissioner General Iltis Turkmen in Vienna.

The sit-in and the cable were motivated by the workers' demand for better pay and as a manifestation of their dismay at the agency's decision to grant them a mere 4 to 12 per cent salary increase, considered far less than expected.

"We expected to get a reasonable increase in salaries in view of the soaring prices and the general economic situation, but we have been granted less increases than our colleagues in Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and Gaza," said Ali Abdul Malik, who represents the teachers group.

"Between 1979 and 1991 UNRWA workers and teachers were offered two increases in salaries while those of other areas in UNRWA received several increases during the same period," he said in interview with the Jordan Times.

"UNRWA workers in Syria received some 40 per cent, those in Lebanon 25 per cent and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 25 per cent," he said.

"In our cable to Mr. Turkmen, we expressed our dismay over this issue and demanded that our salaries be increased to at least the same level with those of our colleagues in other areas," he said.

Dennis Brown, the UNRWA director in Jordan, has been handed the cable to forward it to Vienna, Mr. Malik said. "We hope that our rightful demand will be met as soon as possible," he added.

He said that the workers and teachers could opt to take further action should their demands continue to be ignored, but he gave no details.

The last time UNRWA employees took action in demand for an increase in salaries was in 1989, after which the agency conducted a survey of living standards and gave the teachers an increase in pay.

Mr. Malik said that 30 committees gathered at the agency headquarters Monday, representing teachers, workers, and UNRWA headquarters officials.

"The cable and the sit-in were aimed at expressing our dismay at being treated unfairly and to call on the agency to reconsider its decision about the increase," said Mr. Malik.

He said that the workers hope that the agency will now respond favourably to their demand to avert further complications. He said the agency staff hope to get an increase that would help them cope with the soaring cost of living in the country.

He said that the workers and teachers could opt to take further action should their demands continue to be ignored, but he gave no details.

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## Protestors staging hunger strike, sit-in against U.N. embargo on Iraq

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people who have been staging a hunger strike against the U.N. sanctions on Iraq have been admitted to a hospital, officials said.

The two, part of a group of 20 people who have been conducting sit-ins in front of the United Nations headquarters in Shmeisani, were admitted to the hospital Sunday, officials said. No further information on their condition was available.

The strikers, who are mostly Palestinians, Jordanians and Sudanese and are members of the Al Hussein Youth Club, said Sunday they will continue their hunger strike for another three days. In the meantime, they will continue their protests in front of the U.N. headquarters.

"We are going to walk to the U.S. embassy and hand them a leaflet," said Alawi Sheddhan, who has been taking part in the sit-ins for the past two weeks. "We just want to let the world hear our voices — that Iraqi children are suffering and they are looking for peace."

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which has been conducting humanitarian relief programmes to Iraq since the Gulf war ended, has estimated that 87,000 children have died as a result of the embargo.

One of the protestors, a middle-aged man from Sudan, has shaved off his hair and refused to talk to people as a sign of solidarity with the children of Iraq, Mr. Sheddhan said.

He is reflecting the silence of the Iraqi children," Mr. Sheddhan said. Although admitting that he does not expect much of a reaction from the U.S. embassy, Mr. Sheddhan said that he was hoping to draw attention to what is happening in Iraq.

"We are looking for a trial to change something which we consider was a dirty war," he said. The leaflet, which will also be given to the Chinese, Russian and Egyptian embassies, criticises the United Nations

and the United States for their roles in enforcing the embargo. Following are major excerpts from the leaflet:

"U.S. President George Bush is associated with the most heinous outrages and merciless economic embargo against Iraq, the cradle of the world's most ancient civilisations."

"Just as what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when the United States dropped the first nuclear bombs on purely civilian targets, U.S. warplanes bombed the Amiriya civilian shelter in Baghdad to massacre in cold blood women, children and elderly people. The Amiriya crime was so brutal that it dwarfed Nazi crimes during the Second World War."

"The Amiriya crime has rendered invalid all talk by superpowers about human rights. All the tirades by the U.S. allies and those who supported U.N. resolutions to facilitate aggression against Iraq under the U.N. now amount to no more than political treachery," the leaflet said.

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## Russian ambassador pledges strong ties with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Official documents proclaiming the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States following the collapse of the Soviet Union were welcomed Monday by the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Ahmad Al Lawzi, by Russian ambassador to Jordan Yuriy Griadonov.

The ambassador, who represents Russia as well as the commonwealth in Jordan, expressed his country's keenness on pursuing the course of friendly relations and close cooperation between Jordan and the commonwealth at all levels.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Mr. Lawzi represented the Jordanian determination to pursue cooperation with the new commonwealth in the spirit of justice, freedom, peace, U.N. principles and resolutions. The speaker expressed Jordan's hope

of more Russian involvement in matters aimed at achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East in implementation of the international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Griadonov on Saturday met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and assured him of the commonwealth's policies regarding the Middle East issue. He said that his country was keen on ensuring a lasting peace in the Middle East region and was going ahead with plans to host the multilateral talks in Moscow as planned.

Mr. Lawzi told the ambassador that the Upper House of Parliament was looking forward for further scopes of cooperation between the Russian and Jordanian parliaments in a manner that would contribute most beneficially towards promoting the cause of peace and serving the national



Ahmad Al Lawzi

interests of the Russian and Jordanian people.

The three-colour Russian flag was last Friday hoisted on the former Soviet embassy building in Amman and Mr. Griadonov said in a statement that Russia, which was taking over the former Soviet Union's seat at the United Nations, was also representing the commonwealth in Jordan.

## Libyan official calls for Jordanian support against Lockerbie accusations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputy Speaker of the Libyan National Assembly Ibrahim Al Ghunweil Tuesday ends a two-day visit to Jordan during which he sought the Kingdom's support for Tripoli's stand in the Lockerbie affair.

"I discussed with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat the open threats directed against two Libyan citizens on the part of Britain, the U.S. and other countries, noting that charges against the Libyans accused of being involved in the crash of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie have not been substantiated," he said.

Mr. Ghunweil told the Jordan Times that Libya was counting on

Jordan's support and those of other friendly Arab countries in the face of all these accusations directed against Libyan citizens.

"Investigations in any country, including Libya, have not pointed an accusing finger at any of the Libyan citizens who were unjustly accused of being involved in this tragedy," Mr. Ghunweil said.

Last week, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi invited the West to send judges to Tripoli to take part in investigations into the alleged implication of two Libyan citizens in the 1988 Pan Am crash.

The Libyan foreign minister had said that Libya was willing to send judges to Washington, London or Paris to discuss the charges.

## House endorses 1992 budget

(Continued from page 1)

economic imbalances and achieve a continued growth through cooperating with each other, not with international agencies," he said.

"Turning in on one's self and not cooperating with the international community leads to isolation at a time when we are in dire need of opening up and exploiting every opportunity to get out of the current (economic) crisis," he said.

Mr. Jardaneh did not mention prices rise but said government subsidies on basic staples such as bread and sugar would remain unchanged and any future measures to increase revenues through indirect taxes would not affect the poor.

The reform plan aims at trimming huge deficits in both the budget and balance of payments, building up foreign exchange reserves and encouraging more local and foreign investments.

Mr. Jardaneh said Jordan would seek all ways to involve the international community in easing its foreign debt burden.

Mr. Jardaneh, replying to the demands of many deputies, said the government would continue to provide financial assistance to municipal and rural councils but that the policy could not continue indefinitely since previous experience has shown that such allocations sap the country's resources.

Mr. Jardaneh said that during 1988-91, the government provided JD38.8 million to these councils to help them pay their debts or to acquire real estate for public utilities, but such assistance has not contributed to solving the financial problems of the councils.

The government will conduct individual studies of the councils prior to deciding on extending assistance, he said.

The finance minister, replying to

the deputies point by point, reaffirmed the themes he presented along with the budget to the house earlier this month.

Among the points he mentioned were:

— The government had shouldered the cost of setting up telecommunications projects and of maintaining and operating them. The charges levied by the Telecommunication Corporation are low and the government now believes that a certain margin of profit should be derived from the corporation's operations. Only high-income groups benefit from the operations that the government has singled out and therefore any increase in the cost of such services will not hurt the common man.

— The government is working on a national water strategy, with particular attention on rationalising the use of water. It will impose strict controls over pollution and the work of wastewater treatment plants. The 1992 budget allocates JD14 million for building dams.

— The government is determined to encourage savings for investment, reduce the budget deficit and achieve parity between the current account and the balance of payment by 1998.

— The government shares the opinion of deputies that the volume of foreign debts of Jordan has exceeded safe margins and the cost servicing of the debts is too high. After rescheduling repayment, the servicing of foreign debts will be 17.4 per cent of the expected exports and 12.5 per cent of the expected gross domestic product in 1992. This is an acceptable ratio, and the government is cooperating with international agencies to reschedule or restructure (convert) debts and reduce interest rates.

While rescheduling is only a temporary measure, the government be-

lieves that the Jordanian economy will be in a better position enough to meet its obligations when the payments come due.

A partial write-off of Jordan by the international community is also a possibility.

— The government believes that the actual subsidy for food and for production of cereals will be JD48 million in 1992.

— The government is giving special attention to the energy sector. Ninety-seven per cent of population centres now have power and the rest will soon be connected with the national grid depending on the availability of funds; the Jordan Electricity Authority has already been granted JD22 million for this purpose.

— The government believes that the policy towards community colleges should be reviewed with the objective of averting further unemployment and directing attention to meeting the needs of the Jordanian labour market. An ad hoc committee is studying the situation and programmes of public and private community colleges.

The government's concern over unemployment includes all stages of education. Vocational training has been increased and diversification of secondary level education is also being carried out.

— Regional distribution of the capital expenditure will be tightened and will be made more efficient and address the needy areas. The issue will be given continuous attention.

## Snow expected Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A white New Year is expected in Jordan with most hilly areas expected to be covered with snow Wednesday and Thursday as a new cold air mass will be affecting the country and the rest of the eastern Mediterranean region, according to the Department of Meteorology.

The department director, Dr. Ali Abanda, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the cold front will be accompanied by a very cold polar wind bringing in heavy rains which will start in the north, gradually extending to other areas of the Kingdom.

The very cold wind will cause snow to fall on hilly regions and the cold weather conditions will continue for three days, said Dr. Abanda. Department officials later told the Jordan Times that the snow was expected to fall on all areas above 750 metres. This means all regions in and around the capital, which is more than 800 metres above sea level, will probably receive snow.

Department officials said that some rain will fall Tuesday morning, but the activity will start in the afternoon when the intensity will increase and snow will start falling.

The officials said that temperatures are expected to drop to minus 1 Celsius and could rise to 5 Celsius during the day.

## Agricultural Credit Corporation to open branch in Karak area

KARAK (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) board of directors has decided to open a new branch for the corporation in the Ghor Al Safi area to provide services for farmers in the southern Jordan Valley region.

Karak Governor Eid Qataneh, who met with ACC Director General Mansour Ben Tarif Monday, stressed the importance of developing the southern Jordan Valley region and of holding small projects which could provide income to the families in the region.

He also lauded the ACC's role in supporting farmers and commended its cooperation with the agricultural sector in the Karak Governorate.

Mr. Ben Tarif said the corporation will commence construction work in the building of the Ghor Al Safi branch in January and that tenders for the project have

already been announced. He pointed out that the corporation is now working on training qualified staff to be employed at the branch.

The credit movement in Karak Governorate, Mr. Ben Tarif said, is very active. "It constitutes 20 per cent of the volume of credits in Jordan, which is estimated at about JD10 million," he said.

He affirmed that the corporation's recent decision to pay for part of the interest rates on some loans was commended by farmers who expressed their willingness to cooperate with it. He called on farmers to pay back their debts to enable the corporation to continue extending its services to the agricultural sector.

In another development, Mr. Ben Tarif Monday visited the new building which now houses the ACC offices in the Karak Governorate and inspected the work process in its various sections.

According to Director of the ACC Karak branch Hamed Omirein, the branch had extended loans worth JD2,243,915 to 773 farmers in the Karak Governorate.

Mr. Ben Tarif Monday told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the corporation will continue extending investment loans to farmers in the various agricultural fields, including land reform, the planting of trees, exploiting water resources and developing animal wealth in the Kingdom. He said that JD11 million were allocated for the ACC's 1992 plans.

The plans of the corporation, he said, will concentrate on supporting agricultural processing and manufacturing projects, particularly cooperative ones, and marketing agricultural products in addition to providing loans to farmers to purchase agricultural machinery.

## Fast mail service to be introduced in Irbid, Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Fast delivery mail service will be introduced to the cities of Irbid and Aqaba for the first time by the beginning of January, Communications Minister Jamal Saraih said Monday.

He said that in view of the increasing demand of fast delivery mail in the two cities and as part of the ministry's plans to

extend the service to all parts of the Kingdom, the fast delivery mail services will be introduced in Irbid and Aqaba with the same conditions and rates as in Amman.

Any citizen, company or public or private establishment could call at the central mail offices in Irbid and Aqaba to benefit from the fast delivery mail service, Mr. Saraih said.

## RJ to introduce baby meal service

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, will introduce baby meal service on its aircraft along all routes starting Wednesday, according to an airline announcement Monday.

The announcement said that the meals will be prepared by the RJ catering units in Amman and offered along with sweets for the benefit of the young passengers of different classes.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Hussein at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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April 15, 1950



# Race hate catches fire in Europe

By Hugh O'Shaughnessy

THE future for them is sinister. "Sitting in her headmistress's office in a primary school in Perpignan watching her white, black and Arab pupils playing in the courtyard, Olga is frankly downhearted.

A vigorous woman of liberal views who, in cramped classrooms and on a small salary, has done her best for race relations in her city, she is certainly no defeatist. But she has no illusions about the future course of politics and community life in this depressed corner of France in the shadow of the Pyrenees.

The tide immigrants across the Mediterranean from Muslim North Africa is inexorable; the local French reaction is getting tougher month by month; the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen, which wants immigrants out, already commands the loyalty of a third of the voters of Perpignan and is bound to get stronger.

Politics in Perpignan, in other European cities great and small from Bremen to Brindisi, are swinging to the right because of immigration.

Overly racist parties such as the National Front and the Republicans in Germany are having a field day. Moderate conservatives are scrambling after their voters, terrified lest the extremists who away any more of that middle class on whom the moderate right has always depended.

The left, supposedly committed to greater internationalism than the right, has the hard job of seeking policies which are at the same time saleable and humane. Fearful lest turmoil in the East push millions of Slavs and eastern Europeans to seek peace and prosperity in the West and alarmed at the prospect of new waves of immigration from the Maghreb and the whole southern shore of the Mediterranean — and from Africa beyond — politicians are being forced to get to grips with a set of problems which, all are agreed, can only get worse.

As an increasingly depressed Third World stirs and begins to move, immigration will throw its shadow over public life in Europe. The drive of migrants towards the rich countries of Western Europe, strongly influenced as it is by the global contrast in standards of living between the poor South and the rich North, could produce as many problems for Europe in the years to come as the cold war ever did. Perhaps, more.

At an international conference in Rome sometime ago the Vatican talked of "hundreds of millions of people on the move." In the frightened, violent port of Marseilles, where North Africans are in the vast majority in many districts, Le Meridionale, the local daily, has recalled the words of Houari Boumedienne, the Algerian nationalist leader; "No atomic bomb will stop our peoples one day invading the rich spaces of the northern hemisphere."

The impact of the migration issue goes through infinite gradations in Europe from city to city and village to village depending on whether immigrants are black or white, Christian or Muslim; on whether the local economy is booming or struggling; on whether local politicians are skillful or clever; or on whether, as in Germany, the roots of a racist ideology are still alive. With up to 10 million non-EC immigrants settled among the 320 million inhabitants of the Community and tens of millions more trying to crowd in, it is rare for any part of Europe to be completely unaffected. Europe, after all, needs workers as birth rates slump; only in Ireland is the birth rate increasing.

In Germany, in recent weeks, hatred of immigrants has boiled up in public and demonstrated that democratic and united Germany can still produce ugliness that smells of the Nazi era. The extreme right commands enormous electoral funds. Police reaction against racial extremists in Germany has often been halting — perhaps because, as opinion polls show, the police sympathise with them.

Günther Schultze, a sociologist of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, says: "Discrimination against foreigners is now routine, blood is again flowing from German nationalism." In Belgium, the Vlaams Blok in Flanders and the National Front in Wallonia — which advocate compulsory repatriation of immigrants — are expected to make big gains in the

general elections.

Nor is progressive Scandinavia an exception. The Progress Party of Denmark, whose leader Mogens Oistrup won a fifth of the electorate by campaigning against taxation, owed part of its success to an appeal to xenophobia. And this summer there have been demonstrations outside Copenhagen against immigration.

Perpignan, a stronghold of French nationalism, is a place of narrow streets, ancient buildings and pleasant squares which dozes in the sun, half remembering the times long past when it belonged to Spain. It is a city of some cultural pretensions: it has a university and it wants to become known for its annual festival for news photographers. But below the quiet surface, Perpignan is a political snakepit. "Perpignan is hardly any better than Marseilles, just more hypocritical," says Marguerite, a teacher.

Votes have traditionally been bought and sold in Perpignan, with the thriving gypsy community among the most active traders. The city boss, Jacques Farran, is under investigation for corrupt practices. "Under all the different political labels we've had the same gang in power here in Perpignan for 50 years. It's disgusting," says Marguerite. After France was forced out of its Algerian colony three decades ago, the city welcomed a large number of "pieds noirs," white colonists who were forced out of the land they cultivated and out of their country of adoption by the victorious Algerian nationalists.

"The pieds noirs are a big political force here," says Claude Bébon, an independent-minded member of the regional assembly and a rather insubordinate member of the Socialist Party. He talks wistfully. "When those men worked the land in Algeria they were often communists or good socialists," he says. "Now they're far to the right."

The Maghrebins — the Algerians and their Moroccan and Tunisian cousins — who got rid of French colonialism in the 1950s, are meanwhile following the French into their own country, as Boumedienne forecast. The political temperature is rising in the city.

At 7 a.m., in the scruffy Place Casanyes, not far from the old palace of the Kings of Majorca, the scene is reminiscent of the New Testament. The Maghrebins stand, each with his lunch in a plastic carrier bag, waiting to be hired for a day's work in the fields, in the vineyards or on the building sites. In this depressed city they often wait in vain. By eight o'clock the Place is filled with rickety tables and wobbly camp beds where stallholders heap the cheap shirts and second-hand skirts that the North African men and women buy. No one can guarantee that drugs are not traded among all the tatty clothing.

The increasing number of Muslims and the competition for work is day by day pushing the whites into the arms of Le Pen — and not just in Perpignan, says Bébon. Pointing to the recent remarks by former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing about a migrant "invasion," Mr. Bébon emphasises how the respectable right throughout France is being drawn into deep controversy on the issue. "By choosing the word 'invasion,' a very painful word for the French, Mr. Giscard — who is no fool — was consciously equating immigrants with barbarians," he says. Mr. Giscard's words brought him an immediate dividend: a poll last week showed him to be the politician with whom the French identify.

Meanwhile, the increasingly fearful Muslims of Perpignan are doing their own mobilising and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining a foothold. In the immigrant quarter of St. Jacques, fundamentalists have threatened to punish Algerian grocers if they contradict the Koran and sell alcohol.

At the town hall, Philippe Laborie, spokesman for a council which survives in office with the support of the National Front, admits race relations are "a thorny subject." Here in Perpignan we are much nearer to Africa than you English, but," he smirks, "you English are much nearer Asia. All those Pakistanis you've got..."

As photographer Roger Hutchings and I leave, we are shown how thorny immigration is. Nervous CRS riot police, heedless of the city's drive to attract news photographers, force Hutchings to expose and destroy film he had

taken of checks on immigrants at the railway station.

Italy, which despite its Fascist past has never rivalled Germany in xenophobia, is now waking up to the reality of racism. Accustomed — like Spain, Portugal and Greece — to sending surplus population abroad rather than welcoming incomers, Italians are struggling with a new political phenomenon. Racism has found some strange bedfellows. In an outburst last year, Mgr. Ersilio Tonnini, the Archbishop of Ravenna, complained that Europe was being Islamised and that peoples of different cultures, religions and races could not live together.

Milan the glittering capital of Lombardy, has been the focus of an increasingly bitter debate. It has seen the rise of the Lega Nord, a movement that embodies the Lombards' ancient distrust of Italians from less productive parts of the country. Playing to the Lombards' convictions that the hopelessly corrupt government in Rome does nothing but squander the hard-earned money seized in taxes from the industrious north-easters and that all Italians living south of Rome are congenitally sick, lame and lazy, the Lega Nord wants an independent Lombardy with its capital in Mantua.

But the Lega, which is less of a traditional party than a mass movement without a set of carefully worked out policies, is also tapping Lombards' fears of the foreign immigrant. A poll last month in the newspaper, "Il Giornale," showed that half the voters considered the Lega racist and two-thirds believed that in the spring elections it would win more than a quarter of the votes cast. One Lombard in two finds the Lega leader Umberto Bossi "well-informed, honest, cultured and friendly." "The Lega will certainly be gaining ground," says a senior diplomat in Milan.

Italy is the European country that is most directly accessible to migrants from the Slavic East and the African South. With a land frontier with Yugoslavia and with tens of thousands of ethnic Italians living along the Dalmatian coast, the Italian government is this weekend bracing itself for a new influx of refugees from the Yugoslav civil war. And with the longest coastline in the Mediterranean it has no chance of keeping out migrants from the south.

"We can never really seal our

frontiers," says Enzo, a social worker in Florence. Under its energetic socialist mayor, Giorgio Morales, that city is doing what it can for racial harmony. The Florentines, who pride themselves on their culture and humanity — and who don't want to lose their fabulously valuable tourist business — got a terrible fright last year.

Shopkeepers had long complained about street traders from overseas — extra-communitari from outside the EC — and Florentines in general had been worried about immigrants trading in drugs. During carnival, masked revellers beat three migrants nearly to death. Then black Africans went on hunger strike outside the cathedral. The headlines went round the world and something urgent had to be done.

Sitting in his magnificent office in the Palazzo Vecchio last week Mr. Morales explained his policy. "It's one of solidarity with the immigrant — combined with enforcement of the law." The extra-communitari traders have been cleared from outside the elegant shop windows and given pitches in other spots where they can catch the tourist's eye. The city has meanwhile laid on Italian classes for immigrants and set up centres where new arrivals can stay for up to 60 days.

Mr. Morales is paying voluntary aid agencies to set up creches and nurseries so that disadvantaged Italian and immigrant children can be cared for together. "But," says Mr. Morales, "there's a limit on what one city can do. Migration is a national question. Perhaps even a supranational one."

Among all the fears about the future, there is still a feeling that violent racism is not inevitable in Europe. There is still hope that with good will and realism, extremists of all persuasions can be held in check. Rino Perbellini, the archbishop of Florence's expert on migrant affairs, is clear. "There is no way immigrants can be totally excluded. There's no substitute for treating them like the human beings they are."

In the heart of the continent, the country with the highest immigration rate of all in Europe sets an intriguing example. In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, three out of 10 of the tiny population are migrants, but racism is scarcely a problem. Tolerance has prevailed somewhere. — Observer.

# U.S.-Japan trade frictions rise ahead of Bush Tokyo visit

By Robert Trautman  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Already-U.S.-Japan trade relations have been hit by new setbacks just before President George Bush's visit to Tokyo in the new year.

When Mr. Bush's Dec. 30-Jan. 10 visit to Japan, Singapore, Australia and South Korea was first mentioned, he suggested it would be used for renewing geo-political ties in a post-cold war climate. BUT NOW U.S. officials say it could instead trigger trade clashes as Mr. Bush shifts the talks onto ways to create more job opportunities for Americans.

Referring to the countries on his trip he told a Thursday press conference: "I think they'll understand when this trip is over to the degree there are barriers than make this trade less than fair, that they better to something about it."

With election-year politics prominent, three merging themes of the last few months triggered the switch in tactics. The first was an intensifying spotlight on the rising U.S. trade deficit in cars and car parts when General Motors announced last week it would close 21 North American plants, shedding 74,000 workers.

The second was soaring current account surplus in Tokyo's favour and the third Japan's refusal to open its rice market to foreign imports.

Already Mr. Bush has warned Japan about rising protectionism in America, saying in a pre-visit letter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa he opposes restrictions on Japanese imports but adding: "I need your help."

In his news conference, Mr. Bush made plain his view: "I'm not going to turn protectionism. I just believe that we need to expand markets, not contract them," he said.

"This country went through a disastrous experience with protectionism years ago and we're not going to do it again. We must not go back to this isolationist sphere that inevitably will shrink markets and throw more people out of work."

But Mr. Bush's opposition has not stopped House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri and four Michigan congressmen — from states which are home to major car plants — unveiling plans to submit legislation to force Japan into balancing trade with the United States within five years or face sanctions on its car and car-parts shipments.

With U.S. trade deficit with Japan at about \$40 billion, 75 per cent of it cars and car-parts, the

anti-Japan trade legislation is certain to become a major issue Democrats will use to batter Republicans in the 1992 congressional and presidential elections.

On Thursday, Japan's Finance Ministry announced a more than three-fold increase in its current account balance of payments surplus, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, which widened to a \$7.26 billion surplus in November from a 1.69 billion surplus in November last year.

Alongside general complaints about numbers, Mr. Bush is bound to raise in Tokyo Japan's specific decision to maintain its ban on imports of foreign rice in the face of demands for change from United States and other industrial countries.

Trading partners want Japan to drop the ban as part of efforts to

reform the global trading system, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Its refusal could contribute to a breakdown of work on reforms to the world trading rules after five years.

Diplomatic sources say Mr. Bush is likely to be met in Tokyo with assurances that its latest efforts to balance bilateral trade will work in time for example, decisions by the Japanese automakers Toyota, Nissan and Honda to increase the value of car parts they buy from U.S. suppliers.

But Japan made similar assurances in the past, and many U.S. businessmen and politicians see only minimal results, some suggesting informal barriers operated by private businesses in Japan are now the main obstacle.

Perceived problems with Japanese business practices have been discussed over the last two years by a Japan-U.S. group known as the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII).

"But the business community is left with the impression that a lot of the momentum is gone from the SII talks," said one trade analyst.

Mr. Bush's visit is likely to give them new impetus. "I think the major problem is to have the people that run the business enterprises in the various countries we're going to understand how difficult things are for the American worker... and how important it is to gain access — further access — to these foreign markets," Mr. Bush told reporters.

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## Germans advance in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) — German tennis giants Boris Becker and Steffi Graf swept aside the French duo of Henri Leconte and Julie Halard Monday night, advancing to the semifinals of the Hopman Cup exhibition tennis tournament.

Becker, who twice stood at the summit in 1991 but is now ranked No. 3 in the world, played blazing tennis to overpower Davis Cup hero Leconte 6-2, 6-4.

The victory gave the German team an unbeatable 2-0 lead after Graf, the world's No. 2-ranked woman player behind Monica Seles, defeated Halard 6-0, 7-5.

Graf was feeling ill and withdrew from the scheduled mixed doubles match alongside Becker.

Hopman Cup organizer Paul McNamee said Graf had a bad cold and a high temperature, but would have played if the match was needed to decide the contest against the French team.

Halard won just seven points in the first set against the German's serve in the second, breaking in the seventh and ninth games.

Breaks by Graf in the sixth, eighth and 12th games gave her the victory.

Becker, who missed the Grand Slam Cup three weeks ago because of a virus, looked in supreme touch with his power game, sending down six aces to Leconte's one.

His only lapse was losing his serve in the eighth game of the second set.

The Germans will play Czechoslovakia in a semifinal either Wednesday or Thursday.

Czechoslovakia's Karel Novacek and Helena Sukova combined for an emphatic mixed doubles victory earlier Monday, eliminating the third-seeded U.S. team of Derrick Rostagno and Amy Frazier from the tournament.

Novacek and Sukova downed Rostagno and Frazier 6-2, 6-1 in the decisive doubles after the teams were locked at 1-1 following the singles.

Sukova defeated Frazier 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (5-7) in a marathon opening women's singles at the

Perth Superdome, but Rostagno leveled the contest with a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over Novacek in the men's singles.

The Czechoslovak pair said their quarterfinal victory was sparked by anger at being seeded low.

"We were unhappy when we got here and found we were the No. 5 seeds," said Novacek.

"Both of us wanted to prove to ourselves, the tournament organizers and the other players that we deserved a higher placing."

Second-seeded Spain, which has yet to play, will meet the Netherlands in a quarterfinal Tuesday.

The winning combination will share \$110,000, the runner-up will share \$62,500.

The Hopman Cup is one of a number of warm-up events for the Australian Open, to be played Jan. 13-26 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Despite her condition, Graf took just 62 minutes to overcome Halard 6-0, 7-5.

Graf was in an obvious hurry to finish the job. But in the second set she tired dramatically, dropping her serve at 4-2 and 5-3 before fighting back to break Halard in the 10th game and to love in the 12th.

Becker never let Leconte into their match, which lasted 79 minutes.

The German was clearly delighted by his form. "I had an excellent start. My serve was good. I was moving well and I felt very good."

Early in the match a ballboy felt the full power of the Becker backhand. Attempting a fierce passing shot from the baseline the German missed and the ball struck the boy in the head, knocking him senseless.

Becker and Leconte raced to the boy's aid and revived him with ice and water.

Becker said he expected Graf to be ready for Wednesday's match. "She needs a good night's sleep. She only arrived this morning so that's probably another reason she's not feeling so good."

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lewis voted Champion of the Year

PARIS (R) — Carl Lewis, the world's fastest man, was voted sports champion of 1991 by a panel of experts from the prestigious French sports daily L'Equipe Monday. Lewis, who broke the 100 metres world record at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in August, just pipped fellow-American Mike Powell for the award. The winner also in 1983 and 1984, Lewis received 215 points in the voting to 213 for Powell, who beat Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world long jump record. Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna, who won the Formula One world title for the third time, was third on 134 points.

### Porto overtakes Benfica at top

LISBON (R) — Porto stayed top of the Portuguese Soccer League on goal difference after champions Benfica were held 1-1 at home by lowly Penafiel. Porto took over after beating Gil Vicente 1-0 thanks to a penalty conceded in the dying minutes by substitute Ernst Remco who left two minutes after he came on. The Dutchman handled a cross from Porto striker Domingos Oliveira and was then sent off for arguing with the referee. Captain Jose Pinto scored from the spot. Porto, who have a game in hand, are level with Benfica on 24 points. Champions Benfica went ahead in the 42nd minute through Swede Mats Magnusson but Penafiel hit back a minute later with a goal from unmarked striker Antonio Rebelo.

### Zoff to extend contract at Lazio

ROME (R) — Lazio coach Dino Zoff was poised to sign a new contract tying him to the Roman first division club until June 1994. "I've spoken with the club President (Gian Marco Calleri) and there are no problems," said Zoff, the goalkeeper on Italy's 1982 World Cup-winning team. "I like the atmosphere here and I'm happy to continue with the work which is starting to bear fruit," he said. Zoff, 48, who joined Lazio in May 1990 after having previously coached Juventus, is expected to sign a new contract in the next few days. Lazio, fourth in the Italian first division, also had good news from unsettled Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Sosa. "You could say there is a 70 per cent probability that I will stay in Rome," said Sosa, recently linked with a move to Real Madrid or Napoli at the end of the season. Sosa fears the forthcoming arrival of England midfielder Paul Gascoigne may deprive him of regular first team football. Gascoigne, currently recovering from a serious knee injury, will move to Lazio for \$10 million providing he passes a medical examination on May 31.

### Shriver scores revenge victory

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — American veteran Pam Shriver Monday scored her first singles victory since mid-October, defeating Akiko Kijimuta of Japan 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open. Shriver avenged a defeat by Kijimuta in the first round of the same tournament last year. The two-time champion, back to 37th in the world rankings after recovering from shoulder surgery, hit too hard and served too accurately for her out-gunned opponent, who was the beaten finalist here 12 months ago. "I was a little unsure of now I would play, but for the most part I didn't make too many mistakes," Shriver said. "If I play consistently well, serve well, I think I can get through a few rounds, but it is far too early to think about being a contender." Shriver now plays Mami Endo of Japan, a 6-1, 6-4 victor over American Stacey Martin. The ninth-seeded Shriver was joined in the second round of the 56-woman event by 12th-seeded compatriot Linda Harvey-Wild and 13th-seeded fellow American Debbie Graham. Harvey-Wild hit some excellent groundstrokes in defeating experienced German Eva Pfaff 6-4, 6-3, while Graham downed Karin Kschwendt of Germany 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

### Volkov advances in N. Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Top-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia defeated Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4 Monday in the first round of the \$182,500 BP Nationals Tennis Championship. Three other seeded players were eliminated while Volkov advanced to the last 16. Italian Diego Nargiso ousted fifth-seeded Brazilian Jaime Oncins 6-1, 0-6, 6-4 and German Lars Koslowski beat sixth-seeded Dutchman Mark Koevermans 7-6 (9-7), 6-4. American Jeff Tarango, a former college star at Stanford University, defeated eighth-seeded Swede Lars Jonsson 6-2, 6-2. Jonsson made the final of this event in 1990, losing to Australian Richard Fromberg.

### Sunderland manager to step down

SUNDERLAND, England, (R) — Denis Smith agreed Monday to quit as manager of English soccer club Sunderland, who are 18th in the second division after being relegated from the first division last season. His departure after 4½ years in charge reflects a frustrating season for the club, who started as favourites for promotion to the new premier league.

## Man. United stays 2 points clear after draw at Leeds

LONDON (R) — Manchester United kept their two-point lead in the English Soccer League Sunday after a controversial 1-1 draw at second-placed Leeds.

Both sides had lost only once in the league before the clash, the first of three league and cup matches at Elland Road in two weeks, but it was a game Leeds could have won.

While there was no arguing against Neil Webb's well-taken 46th-minute volley which put United ahead, Leeds were furious to have what looked like a clear equaliser disallowed.

Lee Chapman, clearly inside and beautifully positioned, slot-

ted home only to find the referee had already whistled for a foul seconds before by Webb on Leeds midfielder David Batty.

While Leeds clearly felt the referee should have allowed play to continue, they refused to be demoralised and picked up a deserved late equaliser with an 80th-minute penalty.

Midfielder Gary McAllister, sent clear by team mate Gordon Strachan, was sent crashing in the area by England defender Gary Pallister and Mel Sterland converted from the spot.

The draw left Manchester United with 48 points while Leeds are now on 46.

## Sanchez 1st seed to tumble in Australian Hardcourt

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — South Africa's Christo van Rensburg fought off three match points to beat third seed Javier Sanchez of Spain 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-5) Monday in the first round of the \$182,500 Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Van Rensburg, 29, was down 0-40 at 4-5 in the 10th game of the third set but then held serve and finally won a thrilling contest in the tie-break.

Sanchez was the first to exit

among eight seeded players. German sixth seed Carl-Uwe Steeb advanced to round two with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Italian Renzo Furlan.

The left-hander, ranked 38th in the world, faced Sterner opposition from Furlan than indicated by the score.

Earlier Monday, Swedish teenager Thomas Enqvist rallied to defeat fellow qualifier Axel Finberg of Germany in three sets.

## Auriol takes over lead in Paris-Cape Town rally

PARIS (R) — Frenchman Hubert Auriol took over from compatriot and Mitsubishi team mate Bruno Saby after the 520-km fourth stage of the Paris-Cape Town Rally.

Auriol, winner of the first African stage Thursday, repeated his feat after a close finish in Tumu, Niger, beating four times Paris-Dakar winner Ari Vatanen of Finland in a Citroen by nearly eight minutes.

Saby, the French rally champion who is driving in the desert for the first time, lost previous ground in a crash halfway through the stage.

Auriol, the only race entrant to have taken part in all 13 Paris-Dakar races, which he won twice, led Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka in another Mitsubishi by seven minutes and 59 seconds, according to provisional overall standings.

Spain's Salvador Servia, driving a Lada, was third a further 37 seconds behind.

Despite Saby's mishap, the Mitsubishi continued their sweep by placing three cars in the top four.

In the motorcycle section, France's Stephane Peterhansel on a Yamaha scored his second stage win of the rally ahead of American Danny Laporte, on a Cagiva.

The two fought an uphill battle

after they were stuck in "the wedding" pass halfway through the stage.

Italy's Alessandro de Petri, on a Yamaha, finished fourth to retain his overall lead ahead of Peterhansel.

Saby rolled his Mitsubishi and then had a long wait in the scorching desert heat before assistance came.

Shinozuka stopped for a couple of minutes to help the Frenchman right the vehicle but Saby still had to wait for the service truck to fix his broken rear suspension.

The Citroens' J1 suffered punctures with Vatanen and Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard both having to drive 300-400 km with no spare after two blow-outs at high speed.

"It was a nightmare," Waldegard said. "It was very stony and rocky and we were very lucky not to have more punctures."

Auriol found his Paris-Dakar experience helped.

"The course was rough in places but not as difficult as last year," he said. "The jumps were very tricky, you couldn't see them across the flat desert."

"They were like small waves in the sea, about 30 or 40 centimetres high, but they were very sharp and when you hit them you jump very high," Auriol said.

## Soviet chess grandmasters pose nationality problem

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy (R) — There are no national flags on view at the highest-ranked tournament in chess history which features nine grandmasters from the former Soviet Union.

Organisers of the International Category 18 Tournament decided that placing flags on the table would create too many headaches in view of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

"Maybe the best solution was to play without flags," said grandmaster Alexander Khalifman.

"If the organisers had allowed it I would play under the flag of Russia because I lived in Leningrad," added Khalifman, now resident in Germany.

Lev Polugayevsky also said he would play under the Russian flag despite living in Paris, while Vasily Ivanchuk and Alexander Beliavsky would opt to represent Ukraine.

Boris Gelfand would compete for Byelorussia while exiles Mikhail Gurevich and Valery Salov wanted to display the colours of their adopted countries, Belgium and Spain respectively.

"In the last tournaments I have played under the flag of Belgium. I live in Brussels and have no wish to return to Russia," said Gurevich.

"I would like to get the citizenship of Spain and to play under the flag of Spain," Salov said.

World champion Garry Kasparov and former world champion Anatoly Karpov did not disclose their preferences.

Kasparov played under the Russian flag in his World Cham-

pionship clash with Karpov in 1990 while Karpov stuck to the Soviet Union colours.

Kasparov said he expected to maintain his title until the end of the century but added he would like to defend it against someone other than Karpov in Los Angeles in 1993.

"I would prefer to play my next match with somebody else, not Karpov," he said. "We have played five matches and 160 games and become boring for the audience."

Karpov plays Britain's Nigel Short in Spain next April in the semifinal of the candidate matches.

Kasparov put up a splendid defensive performance Sunday to salvage a draw in his clash with Kasparov in the highest-ranked event in chess history.

Kasparov, with black pieces, opened with a king's Indian defence in the third round of the International Category 18 Tournament and looked poised for victory after going two pawns up.

But Karpov fought back, winning one pawn and eventually finding the only route to salvation with both knights left on the board.

The appreciative crowd warmly applauded both players at the end of a six-hour, 61-move struggle.

Sunday's games attracted about 2,000 spectators, many of whom waited for hours to get into one of the three halls.

Kasparov meets Vasily Ivanchuk in the fourth round while Karpov plays Alexander Khalif-

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
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### HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 10 8 6 4 2  
♥ 7 5 2  
♦ A Q  
♣ K 7

**WEST**  
♠ 3  
♥ 5  
♦ Q 6  
♣ J 10 9 5 3

**EAST**  
♠ 10 9 8 4 3  
♥ K 6  
♦ K 8  
♣ A 6 5 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 9 7  
♥ A K J  
♦ 8 7 4 2  
♣ 9

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 NT 4 ♠ 5 ♠  
Pass Pass 5 ♣ Pass  
Pass

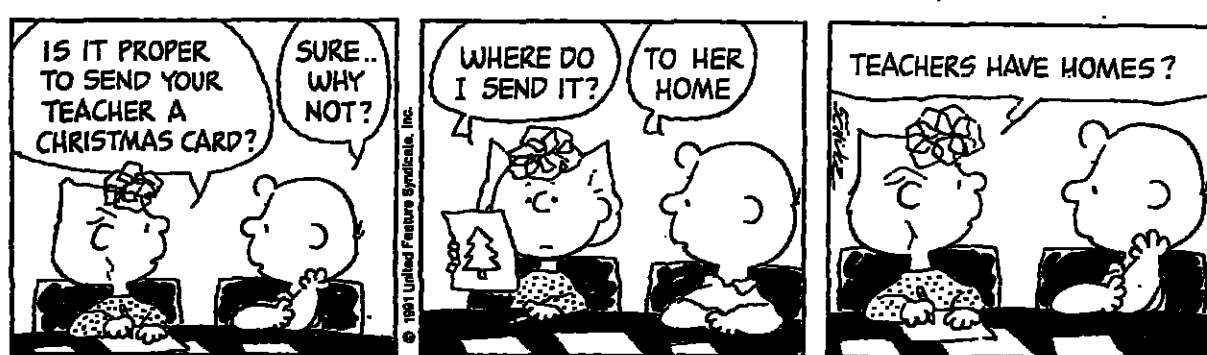
Opening lead: Queen of ♠. We are not enamored of the Unusual No Trump overall. If you do want to use it, we suggest you limit its application either to very weak hands, where you are looking for a sacrifice, or very strong hands, where you intend to buy the contract or double the opponents. With intermediate hands, it is better to try to bid both of your suits rather than employ the convention.

Given our thoughts on the Unusual No Trump, you will have gathered that, at this vulnerability, we do not mind West's overall. It suc-

ceeded in pushing North-South to the five-level and, since the five-level belongs to the opponents, East decided to let North-South struggle. West led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and won by the ace. Declarer ruffed the club continuation and drew trumps in one round, and it might seem that the contract hinged on either a finesse for the queen of hearts or the king of diamonds succeeding. Judging from the auction, both figured to be right; however, a glance at the diagram suffices to show that, had declarer looked no deeper into the position, the contract would have been defeated.

Fortunately, declarer spotted that the heart finesse was an illusion—the contract could be guaranteed as long as West held no more than two hearts, almost a sure bet in light of the bidding and the fact that West had produced a trump. Declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts. As it happened, the queen dropped and the contract coasted home. Had it not appeared, declarer would have continued hearts, surrendering a trick to East. That defender would have been employed into either yielding a ruff-stuff or else leading a diamond into dummy's ace-queen tenace. Either way, declarer would not have lost more than a heart and a club.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 31, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Today you will have a unique opportunity to sit back and observe what is happening. Avoid doing anything until you have the chance to evaluate things that are of current concern to you.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You find one of your family is now in a position to render that favour that means so much to you and that can open new vistas of achievement for you.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) There is some surprise visitor or chance for you to make a call that turns out far better than you had imagined possible so be on the ball for this.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) There are a number of close companions who have some practical ideas by which you can have more of the good things of life so listen to understand their suggestions.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Now you have it in your power to gain the goodwill of that personal chum who means so much to you and you can join in social pleasures.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Make sure that you carefully study whatever data will bring you the outcomes that can be the ones that you privately enjoy the most especially with romantic attachment.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You now can talk out with that good friend that personal problem that has been of concern to you

and get his suggestions on how to rid yourself of the undesirable factors.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you would like to do that means bringing to light the various talents with which you are endowed before those who can make them a worldly success is good right now.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) There are a number of interesting new situations which face you and there are the means by which you can have success in these new outlets.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have lots to do and much is expected of you by others also so take time out to think just how you can perform such tasks exactly and efficiently.

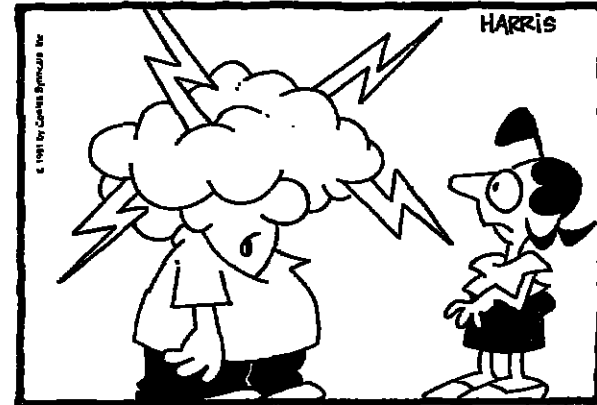
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Now you can come to a real meeting of minds with those who mean the most to you and you find there is quite a number of points of difference that can be settled.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) There are a considerable number of tasks facing you and as you are unhappy when not busy get at them and put them behind you as quickly as you can.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You can have a very happy time during your spare moments now so think out what you would like to do the most and waste no time in making the arrangements early.

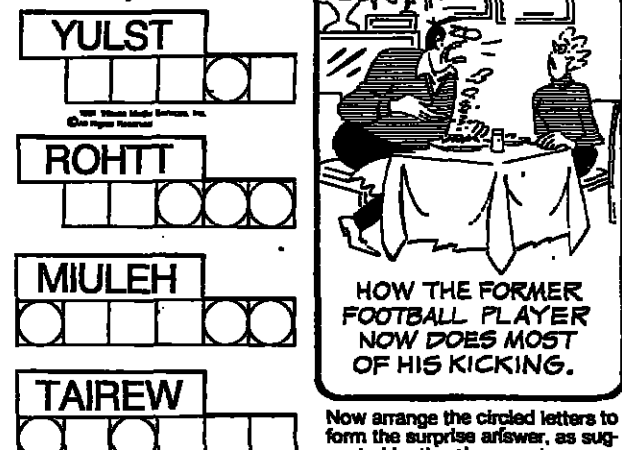
## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



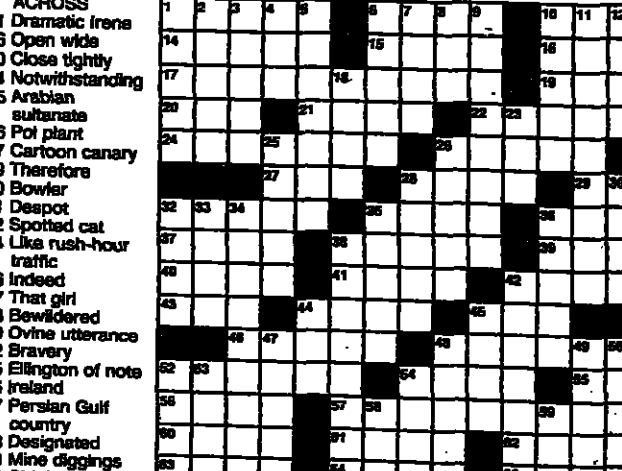
Answer here:     HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUCID ELITE VASSAL GOPHER  
Answer: Why it's nice to start your working day riding in an elevator—it gives you a "RISE".

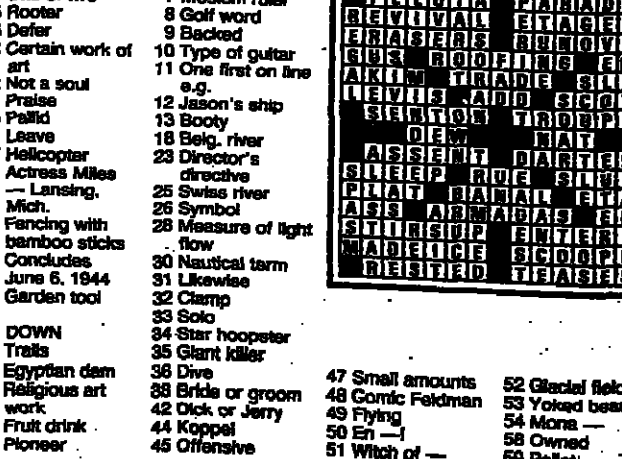
## THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth Witte



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:









## New commonwealth moves hesitantly into 1st major trial

**MINSK, Byelorussia (R)** — The Commonwealth of Independent States, frail successor to the old Soviet Union, faced its first trial Monday when leaders met to discuss disputes on economic and military policy.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin flew into the Byelorussian capital Minsk, insisting the new 11-nation coalition was strong. Asked what issues threatened its future, Mr. Yeltsin, pivotal figure in the commonwealth, replied brusquely: "Nothing and no one."

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who has the power to make or break the community, appeared more sceptical. "We must wait and see what kind of commonwealth it is and only then talk about signing any joint charter," he told Interfax News Agency.

The commonwealth was formally founded nine days ago after the final collapse of the 69-year-old Soviet state. The move marked the end of President Mikhail Gorbachev's rule but held out hopes that the some form of alliance between Russia and Ukraine could be salvaged.

That alliance now appears increasingly in question.

A spokesman for Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the republics, having thrown off the control of the centralised

Soviet state, were wary of any Russian domination.

"Russia must not be our big brother," he said. "But there is no way around a single economy."

Ukrainian President Kravchuk shook two of the commonwealth's central pillars before Monday's meeting started.

On economic and defence policy, both of crucial importance to the international community, he appeared at loggerheads with his powerful Russian counterpart and other republics.

Mr. Kravchuk told reporters the idea of a common rouble currency, agreed earlier by Commonwealth republics, now appeared to be a "fiction."

Ukraine, he said, would take measures to protect its economy when Russia freed prices to market levels on Jan. 2 — a day that may strain the fibre of the new community as well as arousing tensions within Russia itself.

He said Ukraine, with its powerful industrial and agricultural base, would not join Russia in radical price reforms Thursday.

"We move to a market by a somewhat different path," he said. Ukrainian price reforms were expected on Jan. 10.

The liberalisation of prices on Jan. 2 could exert great strains on the Ukrainian economy. Higher

prices in Russia could move many Russians to buy up goods in Ukrainian shops. It would also tempt Ukrainian farmers to evade border controls and sell their produce on the territory of the neighbouring republic.

Ukraine is moving to introduce special coupons as a form of partial replacement currency to protect its stocks at a time when shortages are dogging the entire former Soviet Union.

Ukraine and Russia also disagree over the future of the armed forces that had served the Soviet state.

"All non-strategic forces in the Black Sea Fleet should belong to Ukraine," Mr. Kravchuk said before the meeting.

Mr. Yeltsin, who moved into Gorbachev's Kremlin office four days ago, refuses to accept this. "Historically, the Black Sea Fleet was always Russian. But probably Ukraine has some right to lay claim to some part of it," he said.

The Black Sea Fleet, a vital arm of what was once the Soviet Navy, is based in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

Mr. Yeltsin suggested the Soviet Armed Forces should be reformed into commonwealth forces over a transitional period of about three years.

The Russian president insists the commonwealth should retain

a united system of armed forces. But Ukraine plans its own army and agrees to co-operation only over strategic weapons based on its territory.

While accepting that Mr. Yeltsin should have central control over the nuclear arms based in four republics, Mr. Kravchuk is demanding more clearly defined veto rights over their use.

The talks appeared to make little progress in the initial two-hour spell set aside to cover a 10-point agenda ranging from finance to economic reform and military matters.

Leaders agreed only on the first agenda point — the creation of co-ordinating bodies — before adjourning for a half-hour break. Talks then resumed.

The leaders were also expected to discuss a bloody conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian enclave situation within Azerbaijan and ruled from the Azerbaidzhan capital, Baku.

TASS News Agency said an Azerbaijan tank column had taken up position on the edge of the territory's capital, Stepanakert, during the night and was shelling the city.

It said people had been killed in the shelling, but gave no figures.

## 'Georgian rebels to storm parliament'

**TBILISI, Georgia (R)** — A senior Georgian rebel commander said Monday his forces were preparing to storm the Transcaucasian republic's parliament where President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has been under siege for more than a week.

Fighting raged along Rustaveli Avenue, the main thoroughfare in the capital, Tbilisi, through the morning.

But it was not clear whether rebel National Guards, backed by the shadowy Mkhedroni (horsemen) opposition group, had the power to force their way into the fortified complex.

Rebel guard Major Gela Lanchava told Reuters opposition forces had launched a successful counter-attack through the city centre after losing some positions to government forces fighting from their base in the parliament.

Asked if they were now preparing to storm the parliament, he said: "Yes."

Speaking outside rebel headquarters at the opposite end of Rustaveli Avenue from parliament, Major Lanchava said his National Guards were being backed by the Mkhedroni, an underground opposition group which claims several thousand supporters.

At least half a dozen armoured personnel carriers were stationed on the avenue and some large-calibre machineguns were visible at strategic locations.

Rebels, some wearing helmets and others in distinctive black woolen hats, crouched at corners with rocket and grenade launchers, automatic rifles and other weapons.

"We have enough equipment," Major Lanchava said. "The Mkhedroni brought this and are fighting with us."

Jaba Ioseliani (the Mkhedroni leader) took everything he

had and handed it over to us." As he spoke, rebels were following up the counter attack around the Hotel Tbilisi, their headquarters before it was destroyed by fire.

"Kutaisi, Kutaisi, Kutaisi," they shouted as a battalion from the provincial Georgian city of that name moved into action, crossing Rustaveli Avenue and advancing towards the Hotel Tbilisi.

"They (Gamsakhurdia forces) went into attack in the morning and occupied some of our positions. A few minutes ago we took them back," Major Lanchava said.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men, who have been resisting rebel attacks for more than a week, widened their area of control after opposition military leaders had started to unite against him and called for his resignation at the weekend.

## Khmer Rouge leader back in Phnom Penh

**PHNOM PENH (AP)** — A hated Khmer Rouge leader who narrowly escaped being lynched last month returned under heavy guard Monday and joined the first government-guerrilla meeting on carrying out a peace treaty to end their 13-year-old civil war.

The Cambodian factions and five world powers urged the United Nations to send its full peacekeeping force to Cambodia as soon as possible because recent unrest has threatened the accord, said guerrilla spokesman Pol

Ham. An estimated 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers are to be dispatched to Cambodia to monitor the truce and disarm the factions but so far only a small advance contingent has arrived.

The meeting at the royal palace was the first on Cambodian soil of the Supreme National Council (SNC). The reconciliation body comprises leaders of the Vietnamese-government and its guerrilla opponents the Khmer

Rouge and two non-Communist factions. The meeting had been postponed twice — first after the attempt on Khieu Samphan's life, then after anti-corruption protests by students and civil servants erupted into riots two weeks ago.

A Nov. 27 meeting was cancelled after a mob shouting "murderer" stormed the Khmer Rouge villa in Phnom Penh and nearly lynched Khmer Rouge President Khieu Samphan.

## Spanish king cuts short holiday

**BAQUEIRA, Spain (AP)** — King Juan Carlos cut short his annual skiing holiday after twisting his knee on the slopes of this Pyrenean resort. An out-of-control skier barreled into Juan Carlos, knocking him down and causing what appeared to be a minor injury to his right knee, a royal spokesman told the Spanish News Agency (EFF). The spokesman said the king was resting in his vacation home near the northeastern Spanish resort but planned to return to Madrid for X-rays. Queen Sofia and young daughter Cristina spent the morning on the slopes. The royals had originally planned to stay at Baqueira through next weekend.

## Fur coats for the homeless — in sunny California?

**SANTA ANA, California (R)** — More than 30 women were walking around this post Los Angeles suburb Tuesday sporting fur coats. It's not an unusual sight in southern California where they are worn as a mark of prestige rather than to keep out the cold — but these women are homeless. The furs, all used, were a gift to the women from a local furrier, Ted Bizakis, who explained that he wanted to do something for the homeless at Christmas. The women didn't care that fur coats aren't a dire necessity during southern California's winter, when the temperature averages about 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Celsius) and rarely falls below 50 F (10 C). The coats, they said, made them feel good, and when you have no money and no home and it is Christmas, feeling good is important. "It's always been a fantasy to have a coat. Just wearing it makes me feel special," said Simone Leone, who was draped in a full length mink. Bettie Williams agreed. "This (coat) makes me feel important, and I needed that," she said. The coats were delivered to the women as a surprise as they sat down to dinner at a local shelter.

## Cicciolina passes political torch to co-star

**MILAN (R)** — "Cicciolina," Italy's controversial parliamentarian who made a fortune in movies, is returning to the private life of a porn star. But those quirky Italian voters who elected her five years ago need not worry. Her protégé Moana Pozzi, who has co-starred with Cicciolina in many hardcore films, will be running to succeed her in the hallowed halls of the Rome's Chamber of Deputies. Cicciolina, (little caddy one) whose real name is Ilona Staller, announced through her manager that she would not seek re-election to the seat she won on the Radical Party ticket. Ms. Staller, Pozzi, and manager Riccardo Schicchi last September founded the "Party Of Love," whose stated object is to "bring love to parliament." Mr. Schicchi, whose business as porn entrepreneur and agent has received massive publicity since Ms. Staller was elected, said Ms. Pozzi would run in Milan for a seat in parliament in spring elections. "I believe that this society needs more love," Ms. Pozzi, wearing a low-cut dress, told a news conference called to announce her candidacy. "I will do everything physically possible to bring love into parliament."

## China Issues 'birth control cards' to migrant workers

**PEKING (R)** — China has enacted new rules requiring millions of migrant workers to carry "birth control cards" to prove they are obeying the one-child-per-family policy, the official China Daily said. The cards, to include information on the bearer's marital status, birth record and use of birth control, must be presented before a migrant worker may take a job, seek a business licence or apply for a residence permit. They will be issued to most of China's estimated 70 million migrant workers, who in the past have often managed to evade the government's birth control teams to have forbidden second, third and fourth babies, the newspaper said. Drawn by the promise of a better life in booming coastal regions, millions of migrants from China's hinterland have flooded into eastern cities such as Peking, Shanghai and Canton to take temporary jobs on construction projects and in factories.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Imelda Marcos to take over party

**MANILA (AP)** — Former first lady Imelda Marcos was endorsed Monday by her late husband's political party as its candidate for president in next May's elections. Mrs. Marcos avoided making a categorical announcement that she would run in the May 11 election but told about 300 members of the New Society Movement that "what the people ask me to do, Imelda will do." The delegates chanted "Imelda, Imelda" after unanimously approving resolutions declaring the widow of President Ferdinand Marcos as leader of the party and its candidate to succeed President Corason Aquino. Those who attended Monday's convention were die-hard supporters of Mrs. Marcos, and the outcome of the session was never in doubt. "I am open (to running)," Mrs. Marcos told reporters afterward. "I am not disregarding nor obsessing for it." Mrs. Marcos said she would talk with other opposition presidential hopefuls, including businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Vice President Salvador Laurel and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to see if they could agree on a single candidate.

#### Panic causes 8 deaths at U.S. rap game

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The subterranean gymnasium where eight people died in a crush to get inside for a charity basketball game was jammed with as many as 2,000 people beyond its legal capacity, police said Sunday. "It was oversold," said Mayor David Dinkins. In addition to the eight deaths, dozens were injured Saturday night at the charity event staged at City College by rap music stars. After viewing videotape shot from the bleachers during the melee, police said the gym in Harlem held up to 2,000 people more than its legal capacity of 2,730. Despite the overcrowding, tickets were still being sold at the door, said Mario Salvaggi, a city police patrol chief. Charles Hirsch, chief medical examiner, said the victims all were asphyxiated — "squeezed front to back" — in the stairwell leading to the basement gym. They included three women and five men and ranging in age from 16 to 28.

#### Corsican separatists blow up villas

**AJACCIO, Corsica (R)** — Corsican separatists blew up 30 holiday villas on the East Coast of the island overnight after the independence movement pledged to step up its campaign against French rule. Police said a commando group first led a watchman and his family to safety and then laid explosives in a holiday village of 34 villas built near Sorbo Ocagnano. Bomb disposal experts defused seven charges that had not yet gone off. The attack was announced by members of the separatist movement FLNC, who summoned journalists to a secret midnight news conference to tell them the group was escalating its campaign.

#### Turner names Time's Man of the Year

**NEW YORK (AP)** — American media mogul Ted Turner was named Time magazine's Man of the Year Saturday by editors who cited the impact of his Cable News Network's (CNN) live television coverage of events around the globe. Mr. Turner, 53, was hailed as a "visionary" whose network changed the definition of news "from something that has happened to something that is happening at the very moment you are hearing of it," the news magazine said. "For influencing the dynamic of events and turning viewers in 150 countries into instant witnesses of history, Robert Edward Turner III is Time's Man of the Year for 1991," the magazine concluded. Mr. Turner, whose Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting System Inc. also operates Turner Network Television and Cable superstation WTBS, said he was "extremely honoured" by the award, but credited his employees for his company's success. "These dedicated individuals share a common goal of informing, entertaining and inspiring audiences around the world with quality programming," he said. "In accepting this, honour, I salute their efforts."

#### Actress Cassandra Harris dies

**LOS ANGELES (R)** — Australian actress Cassandra Harris, who played ex-mistress of her real-life husband, Pierce Brosnan, in the U.S. television series Remington Steele, died Saturday of cancer, her publicist agent said. Harris, 39, waged a four-year battle against ovarian cancer and Brosnan stopped working to care for her and their three children, the publicist, Dick Guttman, said. She died at the University of Southern California Cancer Centre in Los Angeles, where she had been treated for several weeks. "Her courage and strength during her illness made it easier for those who loved her," Guttman said. Harris appeared with Roger Moore in the James Bond film For Your Eyes Only in 1981. Harris was a child actress in Sydney and met Brosnan when she went to London to join the National Theatre. In between stage appearances, she had leading roles in British television productions, including All Out at Kangaroo Valley and The Boy Merlin series. She played Steele's ex-mistress, Felicia, in the television series Remington Steele, but she limited her acting in the United States so she could bring up her children, Charlotte, 19, Christopher, 18, and Sean, seven.

## Yugoslav army keeps up attack on Karlovac

**ZAGREB (R)** — The Yugoslav army kept up a relentless bombardment of the key Croatian town of Karlovac into the night, turning it into the main flashpoint of fighting in the breakaway republic.

"In the past few days, Karlovac has become the main battlefield in Croatia," Croatian radio said. Karlovac, 55 kilometres south west of Zagreb, is a crucial link between the Croatian capital and the republic's south, including the Adriatic coast.

Police in Karlovac told Reuters by telephone that the town was constantly bombarded throughout Sunday and explosions were continuing into the night. "It's quiet for about 10 minutes

and then 30 or 40 shells come down at once," the duty officer at the police station said. "They are falling everywhere on every part of the town."

"It gets quiet just long enough for people to feel secure and leave their shelters."

The offensive against Karlovac and rocket attacks on Zagreb's suburbs this weekend marked a serious escalation in fighting between Croatia and the Serb-led federal army.

Croatia said surface-to-surface missiles fired by the army were responsible for six loud explosions in Zagreb Sunday. Western journalists visited the site of two of the explosions and saw craters and damage to houses.

## End of an era comes for U.S. army in Europe

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. army has quietly begun an exodus from Europe — a shift in recent weeks that brought home 40,000 soldiers, 48,000 spouses and children, 10,000 pets and 15,000 cars.

The reduction in forces, made possible by the end of the cold war but put on hold during the Gulf war, is in full swing.

Some days, as many as 500 military men and women leave their posts. No one replaces them.

Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the army's top general, said the move reflects the reduced Soviet threat and changed U.S. military strategy, which relies more on forces based at home to deal with crises around the globe.

"It is a different world in 1992 than the world of the last 40 years," the four-star general said in an interview. "We would be foolish not to respond."

Plans for the "drawdown" of army forces in Europe means that by 1995, its four divisions of 213,000 soldiers will be slashed to two divisions made up of 92,000 men and women. Overall, some

150,000 U.S. military personnel are to remain in Europe, but budget pressures may force even steeper cuts.

Most of the soldiers leave Europe for assignments in the United States if they're not being released from active duty, officials say.

Some critics of the military's involvement overseas say the moves can't come fast enough. "I don't think anybody thinks that there's going to be ... Warsaw Pact troops rolling across the Rhine, and yet we still have massive numbers of people still sitting around there," Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colorado, told reporters recently. "The way we are deployed now just doesn't make sense."

The army had planned to begin moving tens of thousands of troops homeward much earlier, but operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm pulled 76,000 troops from Europe to Saudi Arabia.

Now, transfers have increased in the last weeks of 1991.

Army officials say 40,000 troops left European posts, most in Germany, by the end of 1991.

## New Vietnam constitution removes basic Socialist rights

**HANOI (R)** — Vietnam Monday unveiled a draft constitution that reaffirms one-party Communist rule but removes basic Socialist rights and formalises free market economic reforms.

The document, prompted by the worldwide collapse of socialism, aims to increase the power of the elected National Assembly while curtailing the influence of the Communist Party, officials and a member of the assembly said.

The draft, replacing the current 1960 constitution, is expected to be ratified by the National Assembly in April.

"Over the last decade, the world has witnessed profound and all-round changes," Nguyen Huy Thuc, a member of the Constitution Drafting Committee, told a Hanoi news conference announcing the draft.

"Many articles and provisions in the present constitution are no longer suitable and appropriate for renewal and reform of our

party." He said the revised constitution would be a basis for new laws that "will help us to get our country out of all crises and difficulties and achieve our objective — namely socialism as our people have chosen."

However, the draft formalises capitalist-style economic reforms and removes basic socialist rights guaranteed under the previous constitution, including the right to work, to housing, free health care and education.

"We deemed that we are not able to realise or implement those articles," Mr. Thuc said.

For example, he said, "even among state employees, only about 30 per cent are provided with houses by the state. So if we still maintain the articles that citizens are entitled to housing, I think it is no longer appropriate."

The draft says the state can offer exemptions on school and hospital fees and encourages

citizens to build housing. Although it has begun to attract private foreign investment, Vietnam's economy has suffered greatly from years of Socialist mismanagement followed by a cut in aid from the former Soviet Bloc.

Mr. Thuc said the draft aimed at "political renewal ... but we are not going to carry out political reform in a sweeping manner. We want to have firm steps and measures in order to ensure political stability inside the country."

A National Assembly official told Reuters Friday that the constitutional changes had been prompted by events in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where Communist regimes have tumbled.

"We have learned from the events so that we can avoid disorder and chaos in our country," Tran Xuan Anh said.

The draft was intended to reduce Communist Party interference in administration and make government more efficient. In future, Mr. Anh said, the party would continue to set the general political line but law-making was the job of the National Assembly and the party must obey the law.

The assembly will elect a president as head of state who will also have increased powers and the right, along with the Council of State which he heads, to issue decrees between assembly sessions.

The draft formalises the principles of open market economic reform first adopted in the 1980s while stating that the economy remains "Socialist-orientated."

It protects the assets of foreign companies, guaranteeing them against nationalisation, and formalises the right of foreigners to live and work in Vietnam.

The draft says the state retains ownership of land, but it can allocate plots to organisations and individuals for long-term use and people are entitled to bequeath land or transfer that right.

The draft formalises the right of Vietnamese to travel freely overseas, to invest money abroad and to make direct contacts with foreign companies to do business.

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